

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, attention is directed to the Petition For Extension of Time of three months included herewith, which includes authorization to charge fees to the deposit account of Pfizer Inc.

As a further preliminary matter, it is noted that Applicants mailed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) listing two items of information on December 3, 2003, i.e., after the November 5, 2003 mailing of the Office Action to which the instant response is directed. The Examiner's attention is directed to that IDS, the Examiner being requested to review the items listed therein, suitably initial the Form PTO FB-A820 attached thereto, and return a copy of the initialed form to Applicants.

As a further preliminary matter, a supplemental IDS is being transmitted herewith for consideration by the Examiner.

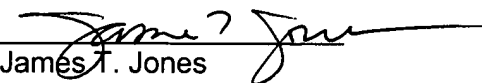
The Examiner's consolidation of Groups I-III for examination and allowance of the claims that comprise these three groups is noted with gratitude. As to Group IV, even though the Examiner has rejected these claims and required an election-of-species, it is submitted that these issues have been overcome and that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Per paragraph 3 of the Office Action, claims 26-42 stand rejected over WO 99/14204 (Sikorski). Applicants have canceled claims 26-42 and submit that the rejection is moot. Applicants emphasize that the cancellation is made to expedite prosecution rather than because of the rejection. The cancellation is accordingly made without waiver or prejudice to Applicants' right to file one or more Continuation applications directed to the subject matter of claims 26-42.

The requirement for an election of species (Paragraph 4) is noted. However, since claims 26-42 have been canceled, the requirement is moot, as discussed above. No additional issues are seen to be outstanding, and in view of the foregoing comments and amendments, this case is believed to be in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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